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Via ECFS  
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to  
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

My family chose to sign up with Sonic as our internet service provider because they offered the best product at the best price. Competition is crucial for pushing companies to provide service that is fast, reliable, and affordable for many. The FCC should not be in the business of cutting off competition and encouraging monopolies. On the contrary, the whole purpose of government regulation is to protect consumers from the rapacity of large and powerful corporations.

Since free-market Republicans are always fond of evoking Adam Smith as the great champion of "laissez-faire" economies, here's a choice quote from his magnificent (and rarely read) book *The Wealth of Nations*:

"The interest of the dealers [referring to stock owners, manufacturers, and merchants], however, in any particular branch of trade or manufacture, is always in some respects different from, and even opposite to, that of the public. To widen the market and to narrow the competition, is always the interest of the dealers. To widen the market may frequently be agreeable enough to the interest of the public; but to narrow the competition must always be against it, and can serve only to enable the dealers, by raising their profits above what they naturally would be, to levy, for their own benefit, and absurd tax upon the rest of their fellow-citizens."

Regulators should promote genuine competition and innovation, not protect the interests of corporate behemoths.

Paul Scott